

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: July 10, 2014

Agenda Item: HB 454 Gillett Ranch Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement

Division: Wildlife

Action Needed: Final Action

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

Background

FWP is proposing a new Hunting Access Agreement on the Gillett Ranch under House Bill 454. Under the provisions of 87-2-513 MCA, FWP requests that the Commission grant authority to issue the following either-sex elk permits for use only on land enrolled in the Gillett Ranch Public Elk Hunting Access Agreement: a) one 410-22 either-sex elk permit to Glen Gillett (or designated family member); b) four 410-22 either-sex elk permits to hunters randomly selected from the list of unsuccessful applicants for 410-20 either-sex elk permits.

Approximately 1,040 acres of private land will be enrolled in HD 410. The four hunters who receive 410-22 permits valid only on this enrolled land may hunt for either-sex elk on any day they call and request permission. Also, one to two hunters per day who possess a valid license will be allowed to hunt for antlerless elk. There will be no restrictions on the number of days that Mr. Gillett can hunt the enrolled property. Walk-in only access (non-motorized use) will be permitted on the enrolled property. Successful hunters who do not wish to pack out their elk, however, may contact Mr. Gillett for assistance in retrieval. This final proposal represents no change from the original adoption on this topic.

Public Involvement Process & Results

The public comment period ended June 23, with comments forwarded to the Commission.

Alternatives and Analysis

If approved, this agreement provides for additional elk hunting opportunity on HD 410. If this agreement is not approved the landowner may choose to prohibit public hunting or lease the property to an outfitter.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

Given the opportunity to expand elk hunting access, FWP recommends the Commission approve this proposed hunting access agreement for public comment.

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission approve as final the 2014 Gillett Ranch hunting access agreement as presented by FWP.